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EVENTS IN THE SOCIAL WORLD.

Many Pleasant Gatherings Last Week.

Birthday Parties in Honor of John Trout and Preston Mills—Mrs. Yeatman's Four o'clock Tea—An Evergreen Tea to be Given for the Benefit of the Calvary Baptist Church—The Tuesday Evening Club—Interesting Party Given by Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Coyner.

A party was given last Friday night by Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Terry, at Elmwood, Jefferson street, in honor of their nephew, John Trout. Mr. and Mrs. Terry were assisted in receiving their guests by the Misses Mattie and Lula Terry.

Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. D. Furgerson, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Trout, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Coe, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Shick, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Crueger, Mr. and Mrs. Bransford, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Matson, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gallaher, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. S. Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. Green, Mr. and Mrs. Levy, the Misses Thomas, Thayer, Motts, Beck, Koiler, Shawman, Fishburne, Kent, Kellogg, Drury, Ott, Langhorne, Hilley and Hunt, and Messrs. Davenport, Fishburne, Corse, Davis, Randolph, Penn, Carmalt, Goodwin, Payne, Sollenberger, Dr. Koiler, Gale, John Trout, Ed. Watts, Jordan, Oglesby, Chas. Lyle, Marston and Parmor.

A most delightful and enjoyable birthday party was given by Preston Mills, on the Salem turnpike, Friday night, in honor of his son, Bruffey, it being his twenty-first birthday. A large number of young ladies and gentlemen from Roanoke and Vinton were present. Dancing was the main feature of the evening, and was kept up until a late hour.

Mrs. Morgan E. Yeatman gave a most charming four o'clock tea yesterday afternoon in honor of her friend, Mrs. C. S. Eaton, of Pittsburg. Mrs. Yeatman was assisted in receiving by Mrs. C. C. Wentworth and Miss Terry. In the dining-room chocolate was poured by Mrs. R. P. C. Sanderson. Ice cream was served by Mrs. G. R. Henderson, and the confections were daintily served by Mrs. W. W. Coe and Miss Nannie Hillary. In the music room Mrs. J. E. Porter assisted in entertaining the guests by rendering some charming songs.

Invitations are out for an evergreen tea to be given at the residence of Rev. R. R. Acree, No. 609 Campbell street s. w., Thursday, February 18th, from 5 to 10 o'clock p. m. This tea is to be given for the benefit of the Calvary Baptist Church.

The Tuesday Evening Club was entertained last week by Mrs. B. L. Greider. Progressive hearts was played until a late hour, and fifteen tables were occupied. The prizes were awarded as follows: First ladies' prize, Miss Lula Terry; second, Mrs. J. R. Schick; third, Miss Jennie Fishburne. First gentlemen's prize, W. F. Winch; second, Dupuy Ferguson; third, Thos. Goodwin.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Coyner gave a delightful party on Wednesday evening in honor of Miss Hortense Coyner and Miss Jennie Fishburne, of Waynesboro. Progressive euchre was the amusement, and a delightful evening spent. Mrs. Wilber Pole won the first ladies prize, and Miss Coyner the second. The gentlemen's prizes were won by Messrs. Hilleary and Greene.

The engagement of Miss Lena Goldstein to Mr. E. A. Stacy is announced. At home Sunday, February 14.

EVERYTHING READY.

The West End Rolling Mill to Start Up To-morrow.

The rolling mill of the Roanoke Iron Company will be started Monday. A force of hands has been employed to operate the mill and everything is ready for action. The mill will be run on double time, which will be five nights and six days a week.

The exact number of hands to be employed at present has not been learned, but a sufficient force is ready to start operations to-morrow.

Ten New Houses to be Built.

W. H. Horton is preparing to build ten houses on Campbell street in the West End. They are to be frame, two stories high, and will contain six rooms each. They will cost from \$1,200 to \$1,800 each. Mr. Horton designed the buildings and will do the work himself. He has placed orders for the lumber and will begin work next week.

A Magnificent Spectacle.

A beautiful aurora borealis flamed up in the Northern sky last evening between 7 and 8 o'clock. The phenomenon lasted about forty minutes and gradually became fainter. It was of a lurid red, pervaded by white streaks and surmounted by the segment and luminous arch. A great many people thought for a long time that it was a large fire. The noise that is said to accompany the aurora borealis was not heard in this latitude. It is the first that has been seen in this country since 1873.

A Pleasant Musicales.

The music pupils of Mrs. S. B. Williams, led by their instructress, gave a very pleasant musicale last night in the parlor of the Ponce de Leon which was highly appreciated by the visitors and guests.

A Large Sale of Lots.

The Roanoke Development Company sold \$15,000 worth of lots on its tract yesterday. The sale of these lots means that a large number of houses will be erected on them in the near future.

JUDGE ROBERTSON MEANS BUSINESS.

The Lynching of Lavender Will be Fully Investigated.

The authorities have already taken the matter of the lynching of Will Lavender in hand, and one witness was yesterday recognized to appear before the grand jury, which meets Thursday. Commonwealth's Attorney Smith is conducting the case, and here is the way he starts out:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
vs.
JUDGE LYNCH.
Witnesses: A. H. Griffin,
W. R. Tally,
J. T. Austin,
W. E. Thomas.

The above is like a page in Mr. Smith's note book, which he showed to a TIMES reporter yesterday morning. He was endeavoring to add to the list and was not inclined to take from it.

Court was just ready to adjourn for the day, and the reporter is under the impression it had adjourned, for Judge Robertson had left the bench and put on his hat, when Mr. Smith asked that THE TIMES reporter be recognized to appear before the grand jury. Clerk Brooke recognized him in the sum of \$50. Then the reporter contended that the recognizance was not legal and binding from the fact that the court had adjourned.

The judge again took the bench and called the clerk over to him. After a short consultation the clerk again recognized the reporter in the sum of \$500.

When he overheard of a witness being recognized to appear before the grand jury in the sum of \$500? The court "seen" the reporter's \$50 and "went him" \$450 before the judge means business, however, and is going to see the thing through. There was no less talk about the lynching yesterday than the day before. Knots of men gathered on the corners and discussed the situation.

Few men could be found who opposed it. A prominent preacher said yesterday that while he would not take part in such a thing himself, yet there were certain times when he favored it. In this country the people are the law-making power. The officers are only their servants, and when the people see that these servants are not to be trusted with a just execution of the law, they simply tell them to step out of the way, and say, "We will attend to this case." He did not approve of lynching, only in such cases, however, and then there should be proof positive.

E. C. PECHIN ACCEPTS.

He Consents to the Use of His Name as a Mayoralty Candidate.

The following letter of acceptance has been issued by Mr. E. C. Pechin, in response to the request of many citizens that he stand as a candidate for the mayoralty:

ROANOKE, VA., Feb. 13, 1892.
Messrs. Thomas Lewis, Jos. T. Engleby, Francis B. Kemp, and others.
GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to express my appreciation of the compliment you have paid me, in asking the use of my name for the office of mayor at the coming election under the new charter.

Such a request, coming in such a way, deserves and has received my serious consideration. As far as I am personally concerned, I should decline the nomination without a moment's hesitation, but as a citizen of Roanoke, personal considerations may have to be put aside.

In accepting the nomination it can only be on such a platform as to prevent the slightest misapprehension on the part of anyone as to how, in my opinion, the business of the city ought to be managed. Its affairs should be conducted precisely as an individual or well-managed corporation conducts its business—thoroughly, method, careful oversight, well-adjusted checks, systematic and accurate accounts, the fullest responsibility upon heads of departments, harmony of action, no jobs, no commissions, careful preparatory estimates, economical expenditure of the public moneys and proper compensation for the particular and exclusive services of thoroughly competent men.

If I be chosen mayor, I shall endeavor to enforce, without fear or favor, every existing ordinance, no matter how it may affect the rich or poor, white or black. A good ordinance soon shows its value, and the rigid enforcement of a bad ordinance is the quickest way of securing its repeal. The law should be no respecter of persons. Personal solicitation or recommendation of any sort will amount to nothing, without personal fitness on the part of the one to be appointed to any position, and the large power vested in the mayor under the new charter of suspension or removal will be unhesitatingly exercised if cause can be shown for such action.

Now, if with this frank expression of my views, you think it worth your time and trouble to make me your candidate and work for my election, I do not see that I have any right to refuse the use of my name, but it must be distinctly understood that I do not lift a finger in the contest. If the office come to me at all, it must come unsought. If I am elected I shall try to properly discharge the responsible, arduous and thankless duties of the office. If defeated, I shall remain, with the greatest possible satisfaction, a private citizen of Roanoke, anxious in every proper way to advance her interests. Respectfully yours,
EDMUND C. PECHIN.

Preparing for the Ball.

The Friends Fire Company is perfecting arrangements for its ball on the night of the 23d. A large number of tickets have been sold, and one hundred invitations sent out.

Deluge at the Market.

A water pipe burst over the market house yesterday morning and sent a stream of water down in front of a doorway for several hours before it was stopped.

ANOTHER NEEDLESS SCARE.

Citizens Aroused Last Night by a False Alarm.

Sergeant Griffin Reported That One Hundred and Fifty Negroes Were Assembled in Peach and Honey—The Fire Bells Rang and a Large Crowd Gathered—The Military Company Ordered Out—Shotguns and Winchester Rifles Plentiful—No Signs of a Riot Could be Found.

About 1 o'clock this morning Sergeant Griffin brought in a report that about 150 negroes were gathered over in Peach and Honey and that they were meditating an attack.

This was sufficient to start out a crowd. "Headquarters," or "312," was turned in and in five minutes 200 men had gathered. Then contradictory rumors began to pour in. The negroes were mounted and coming from Salem. They were coming around by the still house. They were over in Belmont. Like Falstaff's army in buckram imagination swelled their numbers to formidable proportions.

In order to find out exactly how much of truth there was in the stories, two representatives of THE TIMES with W. G. Baughman and Officer Freeman, made a thorough exploration of the whole region from Bunker Hill to Peach and Honey, Possum Trot and the Salem Turnpike. There were two or three small groups of from five to fifteen negroes seen and passed and half a dozen individuals. No remarks were passed.

On the way back a group of some twenty were met, and one TIMES representative and W. G. Baughman stopped and had a twenty minutes talk with them. They were entirely civil. Only one showed any rancorous disposition and he was backed down and unsupported by his comrades.

They seemed to fear that an attempt was to be made to lynch Bill Redd, and they reported threats had been made against him. After a talk they seemed pacified, and the party broke up and scattered for home.

There is no disposition to make trouble among the masses of negroes and the handful who would have no influence. There was one tough-looking young negro who carried an old single-barreled shot gun, but the other negroes made so much fun of it that he slunk off by himself.

Mayor Evans mounted the steps in front of Massie & Martin's drug store and thanked the crowd for its prompt response to the alarm. He was glad to say that there was no need to fear anything.

There were no negroes in arms, and he had learned that there were only twenty-five or thirty armed in the first place and they said they did it only through fear that they were going to be attacked. He advised the crowd to go home and have no more disturbance.

Some man cried out, "Let's go," and the crowd disbursed in five minutes. The military company and the citizens who had obtained arms were marched to the armory, where the citizens gave up their guns and went quietly to their homes.

The militia was marched to the station house, where they were instructed by Mayor Evans to stay quartered until further orders. Judge Robertson also addressed the militia and mob on Commerce street, and said that they had better disperse and go home—that they were breaking the law more than the negroes were.

He had heard from reliable sources that there was not a negro to be seen anywhere and thought that the whole excitement was brought on by the fear of the police.

The crowd reluctantly accepted the statement made by the judge that there was no danger and slowly dispersed for their homes. A few men continued to stand around for a while discussing matters, but they, too, finally departed.

MEETINGS DID NOT MATERIALIZED.

No Truth in the Report About the Negroes Organizing.

On Friday afternoon handbills were circulated requesting "All the colored citizens of Roanoke to assemble at Penn's hall at 8:30." The object of the proposed gathering was not stated, but it was understood that it was to enter an indignant protest against the lynching of Will Lavender, colored, for the outrage he attempted upon the little white girl, Alice Perry, and to demand that the authorities ferret out and punish the lynchers.

The meeting did not materialize to the extent that the authors of the call anticipated and hoped. Between fifteen and twenty colored people assembled, but if the leaders of the movement were present they maintained a discreet silence.

A. J. Oliver and Henry Davis advised the men not to hold a meeting, and they dispersed without making any demonstration.

The city was rife with rumors yesterday afternoon that the colored people were organizing another meeting at Penn's Hall to protest against the actions of the mob on Friday morning.

All sorts of stories were current. One was that Bill Redd came over to Railroad avenue and gathered together a large number of colored people.

Another report was circulated that a meeting would be held last night at Penn's hall, the object being revenge in its broadest sense. A large number of men began to arm themselves and showed that they were ready to meet any outbreak.

A TIMES reporter started out to run down the reports. By conversation

with J. H. Davis and a number of other influential colored men, it was learned that there was no truth whatever in the reports. Bill Redd was seen and asked to make a statement concerning the reports that had been circulated on the streets. Bill showed that he was fully posted as to what had been going on and talked rapidly. Said he:

"I can prove that I said less about that lynching than any one else. I will say that I am opposed to lynching, but I made no great ado about the matter that has been said of me. I have heard that people said they would want a crack at me and they would do me up. I am going to protect myself, of course, but I am not going to take part in any proceedings against the white people. I want to live peaceably, that is all. No, there will not be a meeting held to-night. If there is I will not be in it. The lynching has been done now, and I think the matter ought to drop."

The military company was called out last night by the mayor to hold themselves in readiness, in case of an outbreak on the part of the negroes. They assembled at the armory in uniform, and some went on the streets with their guns, causing much undue excitement.

A telegram was received by Chief of Police Jones from Salem, saying that a hundred mounted negroes would invade the town, but they failed to materialize. Mayor Evans was out until a late hour, but did not find anything unusual among the colored people.

J. A. Gearheart has received several threatening letters signed "Committee," and also a box containing a rope, some negro hair and a large cartridge, with a threat that his neck might be pulled, too. Mr. Gearheart had nothing whatever to do with the lynching of Lavender, as he was at home when it occurred. Several other gentlemen have also received similar communications.

AT THE BRIDGE WORKS.

A Large Amount of New Work Being Received.

The American Bridge and Iron Company has as much work on hand as it can get through with for some time to come.

The Pulaski furnace will soon be completed. Superintendent Wentworth said yesterday that this work would be finished by March. It will be one of the finest furnaces in the State and is calculated to turn out 125 tons of pig iron daily. The furnace will be located in a fine ore and limestone region, and will undoubtedly be a profitable plant.

The company has received an order from Sea Board and Air Line railroad for a large bridge, work on which will begin in a few days.

The biggest thing on hand is the negotiation between the company and the Baltimore and Annapolis Railway Company for 2,000 tons of castings for a cable road. If the Bridge Works get this order, it will give the foundry as much as it can do for several months.

The shops will probably work night and day for two weeks, in order to complete the drawbridge for the Norfolk and Western over the south branch of the Elizabeth river at Norfolk. The bridge, on the James river, near River town, is being strengthened, and will soon be in an excellent condition.

The cantilever bridge for the Roanoke Development Company over Roanoke river will be done in two weeks. Plans are now being made for a large overhead bridge, which the company will erect at Bluefield.

Mr. Wentworth stated that as soon as the contract for the new city jail was signed, work would begin on the cells, as the Bridge Works has the contract for furnishing all the iron work.

A full force of hands is being worked, and if the company succeeds in securing the orders it is now negotiating for a great many more men will be employed.

Speaking of the railings of the Randolph street bridge, which the Manly Manufacturing Company furnished, Mr. Wentworth said that the work was not a first-class job, but his company intended to make it all right as soon as possible. A few changes are needed in some places, and it is thought that the work will be satisfactory in every particular.

St. Andrew's School Roll of Honor.

The following is the roll of honor of St. Andrew's school for the month ending February 12: Ernest Seibert, John Brophy, Leo Arnold, Andrew Arnold, Bernard McGeehe, Junius McGeehe, Edward Welsh, James Waters, Lucy Rowan, Mary Carr, Annie O'Connor, Annie O'Leary, Regina Carr, Fannie Brophy.

To Attend His Father's Funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Howe will leave for Altoona, Pa., this afternoon to attend the funeral of Mr. Howe's father, Maxwell Howe.

The Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—[Special]—The weekly bank statement is as follows: Reserve, increase, \$212,400; loans, increase, \$5,637,700; specie, increase, \$943,300; legal tenders, increase, \$817,900; deposits, increase, \$8,195,200; circulation, increase, \$16,400. Banks now held \$33,638,225 in excess of the requirements of the 25 per cent rule.

TELEGRAPHIC FLASHES.

A large crowd of men in Montgomery, Ala., is searching for a negro named Wm. Webb, who is concealed by the officers. Webb committed an assault on Mrs. Crump about a week ago. If the mob gets him he will be lynched.

A mother and her child were killed by a freight train, at a station west of Asheville, N. C., on the Western North Carolina railroad yesterday. Two other children were maimed.

The Republican State executive committee of Tennessee has issued a call for a State convention to assemble in Nashville, on May 4, to select delegates to the Minneapolis convention and to nominate a candidate for Governor.

NO PROGRESS MADE AS YET.

The Kent Bill Dragging Along Slowly.

Two Speeches Made on It Yesterday. Its Friends Want to Have It Considered When a Majority of Members of the House are Present—The Bill Providing a Circuit Court for Roanoke City and Bedford County Passes to Engrossment.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 13.—[Special]—

The committee of the library this morning reported a bill to the senate for the erection of a fire-proof building to accommodate the State library, court of appeals, the Governor, two auditors, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, railroad commissioner, superintendent of public instruction, adjutant general and superintendent of public printing and State laboratory.

The preamble to the bill sets forth that the present capitol building is overloaded and may collapse from the extraordinary weight, and is also daily in danger of destruction by fire. Gov. McKinney, Secretary of the Commonwealth Flourney, Auditors Marye and Rutlin and Treasurer A. M. Harman, are created a board of building commissioners. There are about \$250,000 available for such a building.

Mr. Wells, of Wise, introduced a bill amending the divorce law, making two years abandonment instead of five, cause for divorce.

The bill making Bedford county and Roanoke city a judicial circuit was passed to engrossment to-day.

Mr. Goode, of Mecklenburg, introduced a bill making a State officer, judge or legislator, subject to a fine of \$500 for using a free pass.

No progress was made with the Kent bill to-day. Two short speeches were made, but the patron desired to defer his speech until there was a fuller attendance, many members being absent on legislative business.

The debt bill was reported by the joint finance committee to both branches of the legislature to-day. It was made the special order in the house for Monday.

REORGANIZING THE R. AND W. P.

The Olcott Plan Will be Announced Next Week.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—[Special]—An evening paper says:

The Olcott plan for reorganizing the Richmond and West Point Railway and Terminal Warehouse Company, will be announced early next week. The following details were whispered in Wall street to-day.

In all, there will be \$500,000 in securities of the new company issued. These will be divided as follows: There will be \$212,500,000 new 4-per-cent. first mortgage bonds, \$75,000,000 of preferred stock, and \$150,000,000 common stock.

These securities will replace every existing security outstanding on the present 8,800 miles of railway, and nearly 3,000 miles of water lines. They will be listed on New York, London and Amsterdam stock exchanges.

The details of rates in which the present securities of the Terminal and its controlled roads are to be exchanged into those of the new company will be made public when the Olcott plan is finally announced.

When the above details were submitted to Gen. Thomas, he said that there was no plan yet and no decision would be reached for a week.

IN CONGRESS YESTERDAY.

The Committee to Investigate the Pension Office Appointed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—[Special]—Speaker Crisp to-day announced the following committee to investigate the Pension office: Wheeler, of Michigan; Little, of New York; Langan, of Ohio; Lind, of Minnesota, and Brossius, of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, a resolution was taken up directing the committee on manufactures to investigate the so-called "sweating" system of tenement labor. The committee is given authority to send a sub-committee to various cities in carrying on the inquiry.

On motion of Mr. Chipman, of Michigan, an amendment was adopted directing the committee to inquire how much increase the McKinley act had caused in the wages of workmen employed in the industries protected by the terms of that act. The resolution was then adopted.

The bill providing for the better control and to promote the safety of the national banks was taken up and passed. One or two other bills were passed and the House then adjourned.

To Consider the Silver Question.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—[Special]—The silver men at noon had secured about 112 names to their petition asking that the silver bill be made a special order in the House. A large number of members are absent from the House, and for this reason there are a great many members to whom the petition has not yet been presented. None but Democrats, whom it is believed will vote for free coinage, are being asked to sign. About fifteen of those to whom the petition has been handed have declined to sign on one ground or another.

To Oppose the Sub-treasury Scheme.

EMPORIA, Kan., Feb. 13.—[Special]—It has developed here that the Farmers' Alliance delegates of the Fourth Congressional district, have been instructed to oppose the Sub-treasury scheme at the St. Louis convention.

The Weather.

Forecast: For Virginia, much warmer, south winds, generally fair Sunday, but with increasing cloudiness and probably rains or snow Sunday night and Monday.